

REMARKS

Claims 1-19, 21-24, 27-40, and 65-74 are currently pending, however claims 5, 11, and 27-33 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 24, 69, and 72 are objected to, and claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-23, 34-40, 65-68, 70, 71, 73, and 74 stand rejected.

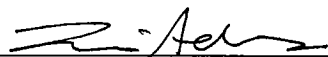
At the outset, Applicants amend independent claim 74 to remove all limitations previously added by amendment. Claim 74, which includes all of the limitations of original claims 1, 21, 22, and 24, was initially presented in response to a first Office Action in which the Examiner indicated that independent claim 24 represented allowable subject matter. Thus, claim 74 should have been allowed in the second Office Action, and should remain allowable. Accordingly, the previous amendments made to claim 74 were not necessary and were made inadvertently.

Applicants further submit that claims 1-73 are likewise in condition for allowance. Per a telephone interview with the Examiner on April 30, 2007, agreement was reached that the amendments submitted herewith overcome the pending rejections. In particular, independent claims 1, 35, 65, and 73 are amended to clarify that the proximal portion of the elongate shaft extends at an angle *other than 0* relative to the distal end of the elongate shaft.

Accordingly, all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicants is such communication is deemed to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa Adams, Reg. No. 44,238
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP
World Trade Center West
155 Seaport Boulevard
Boston, MA 02210
Tel: (617)439-2550
Fax: (617)310-9550